

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The specification has been amended to correct informalities. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 7, and 8 being independent.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 8 have been amended. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,801,781 (Hiroshima). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, 13 the features of detecting whether a data length of image data for one picture reaches a predetermined value, wherein the predetermined value is less than or equal to a maximum value of the packet length which can be specified in a packet header, and variable-length packetizing, variable-length encoding image data in accordance with an output of a header detecting means and a data length detecting means. Applicant submits that neither Hiroshima nor the other cited art discloses or suggests at least those features. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Independent Claims 7 and 8 recite similar features to those of Claim 1 and are believed patentable for similar reasons. The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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